Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 175315

40
ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RDLORTON:MMK
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:RBMORLEY
NEA/P:GSHERMAN
---------- 033767
O 101633Z AUG 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 175315

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN, US
SUBJECT: HARCOS/FLETCHER

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AUGUST 10 WEINRAUB NY TIMES P. 10 ARTICLE DATELINED NEW DELHI AUGUST 9. QUOTE: A CALCUTTA JUDGE HAS BARRED UNITED STATES CONSULATE OFFICIALS FROM ATTENDING THE FORTHCOMING TRIAL OF TWO AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN HELD FOR 16 MONTHS ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES.

2. LAURENCE G. PICKERING, CONSUL GENERAL IN CALCUTTA, SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW TODAY THAT A SESSIONS COURT JUDGE, N.G. CHOWDHURY, RULED TUESDAY THAT THE TRIAL WOULD BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION STARTING SEPT. 9.

3. MR. PICKERING SAID A PERSONAL APPEAL TO THE JUDGE HAD BEEN REJECTED. HOWEVER, CONSULAR ACCESS TO THE PRISONERS IS CONTINUING AND AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL IS VISITING THE MEN THREE TIMES A WEEK.

4. THE DEFENDANTS ARE RICHARD W. HARCOS, A 27-YEAR-OLD ARMY VETERAN, AND ANTHONY A. FLETCHER, 30. THE MEN, WHO LIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO, HAVE LISTED THEIR OCCUPATION AS TAXI DRIVER. THEY ARE CHARGED WITH VIOLATING THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 175315

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, WHICH DEALS WITH SPYING, CONSPIRACY

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

AND ACTS THAT ARE "PREJUDICIAL TO THE SAFETY OR INTERESTS

OF THE STATE.

5. HEARING SET FOR AUG. 23. MR. PICKERING SAID A HEARING HAD BEEN SET FOR AUG. 23 AT THE REQUEST OF INDIAN DEFENSE ATTORNEYS FOR THE AMERICANS. THE LAWYERS ARE SEEKING THE RIGHT TO SEE THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS.

6. THE PRISONERS ARE ON A HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST AGAINST THEIR DETENTION AND IN AN EFFORT TO OPEN THEIR TRIAL TO THE PUBLIC. THEY ARE BEING FORCE-FED.

7. BECAUSE THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, WHICH PROVIDES IMPRISONMENT UP TO 14 YEARS, IS A SWEEPING MEASURE, EVEN THE BAREST DETAILS HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED HERE. IT IS KNOWN THAT INDIAN SECURITY MEN SEIZED MR. HARCOS, WHO WAS SWIMMING WITH SCUBA GEAR IN A PROHIBITED AREA OF THE HOOGHLY RIVER HERE APRIL 26, 1973. MR. FLETCHER WAS ARRESTED LATER IN A HOTEL. LAWYERS INSIST THEY WERE INVOLVED IN A SCHEME TO SMUGGLE OUT HASHISH BY FIXING A PLASTIC BAG TO A SHIP'S HULL. UNQUOTE.

8. ARTICLE CARRIED HEADLINE "TRIAL IN CALCUTTA BARS U.S. CONSULS; CASE OF AMERICANS ACCUSED OF SPYING TO BE CLOSED." KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CITIZEN PROTECTION, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE175315
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RDLORTON:MMK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740219-1194
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740857/aaaabxbg.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <15 MAR 2002 by reddocgw, PRIVACY>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by martinjw>; RELEASED <23 JAN 2003 by martinjw>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARCOS/FLETCHER
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN, US, (FLETCHER), (HARCOS)
To: NEW DELHI CALCUTTA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005